

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present Amendment is in response to the Office Action having a mailing date of December 9, 2005. Claims 1-17 are pending in the present Application. Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 14, and 16. Consequently, claims 1-17 remain pending in the present Application.

Applicant has amended claims 2, 4, and 5 to be in independent form, incorporating all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has also amended claims 1, 14, and 16 to recite that the at least one second magnetic element is integrated into the current source and is not programmable by the current source for data storage. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 14, and 16 can be found in, for example, Figure 2 and the accompanying discussion.

In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 2-13, 15 and 17 contained allowable subject matter. Applicant gratefully appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 2-13, 15, and 17 contain allowable subject matter.

Applicant has amended claims 2, 4, and 5 to be in independent form, incorporating all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 3 depends upon claim 2. Further, the Examiner indicated that claims 6-13, 15, and 17 were allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-14, 15, and 17 are allowable as currently presented.

In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,404,671 (Reohr). Although a reason for rejection is not specifically indicated, Applicant believes that the Examiner intended to reject claim 16 under Reohr.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection. Claims 1, 14, and 16 all recite that the at least one second magnetic element is integrated into the current source and is not programmable by the current source for data storage.

In contrast, Reohr describes a system which utilizes a current source. The current source does employ magnetic elements in programming magnetic elements in a memory. However, Reohr expressly states that the current source uses magnetic elements that are adjacent to the magnetic element being programmed. Reohr, col. 2, lines 50-59. Consequently, the magnetic element used by the current source in programming is part of a memory cell. The magnetic element used by the current source is, therefore, used for storing data and programmed by the current source for data storage. In addition, the magnetic element is part of the memory, rather than being integrated into the controller. Thus, Reohr neither teaches nor suggests the magnetic memory and methods recited in claims 1, 14, and 16. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 14, and 16 are allowable over the cited references.

Applicant's attorney believes that this application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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